Jan. 5, 2012

To: Montana Environmental Quality Council

From: Margaret Moddison

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I am writing to ask for your support for the creation of an improved park system, as being evaluated based on HJ32. The creation of a Montana Park, Recreation, and Heritage Commission is a positive solution assuring a framework of successful fiscal management and positive planning for all our treasured cultural, historical, and recreational sites.

I am a native of Great Falls and have been involved with State Parks since 1973. I am a post member of the Heritage Park Board (Giant Springs, Great Falls), past President of the Cascade County Park Board, county/state liason in the grant based development of Black Eagle Park, a member of State Park Future I, chairman of State Park Future II, and a founding director of the Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Foundation. I also served two years on the Citizen's
Advisory Committee for Region 2, however, I resigned because of the lack of interest in park issues.

Achieving the mission of the Montana State Parks, as stated in the parks division overview in the HJ32 white paper was an important goal of both State Park Future Committees. The ability to meet this mission and expand on the values and opportunities for Montanans and out of state visitors is questionable under the current (and past) organizational status. Our State Park resources need to be addressed by a flexible management system that enables effective resolutions which meet the changing needs, conditions, and problems. This paves the way to building a dynamic visitation experience for ALL ages and increases tourism dollars into Montana. Blending the Montana Parks System with the Montana Heritage Commission and the assets managed by both is not only logical, but allows for a more comprehensive opportunity to address common goals successfully. It creates the best of the best. Time would be given to addressing topics and solving problems that have existed for many years.

we all want the same thing...a fiscally sound system creating the best possible solutions, continual positive review, and a strong plan for the future. This concept merits your support. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. Maigacette m laddison

Respectfully,

Margaret W. Moddisón 🗸